IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 1, 10, and 15-20 in accordance with the following:

1.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A record and playback apparatus which codes information and records said information which is coded in a recording medium, wherein:
        <u>said information is recorded at a variable bit rate; and</u>
        said record and playback apparatus stores, in a predetermined management area provided in said recording medium, management information including time information on a time when said information is recorded, index information which can be assigned to a recording unit, and a backward pointer for connecting recording units in a backward direction.

2.   (ORIGINAL) The record and playback apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined management area is a FAT area, and said management information is provided in said FAT area.

3.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The record and playback apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined management area storing said management information is an area provided separately from a FAT area.

4.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The record and playback apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined management area storing said management information is an area provided separately from a FAT area, and said predetermined management area is provided for each of said time information, said index information and said backward pointer.

5.   (ORIGINAL) The record and playback apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined management area is a FAT area, and said management information is information which forms a FAT entry tag provided in said FAT area.

6.   (ORIGINAL) The record and playback apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said management information includes said time information; and

said record and playback apparatus comprises a control part which causes said record and playback apparatus to perform playback operation from a recording unit corresponding to a time specified from the outside by comparing said time with said time information.

7.   (ORIGINAL) The record and playback apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said management information includes said time information; and

said record and playback apparatus includes a control part which causes said record and playback apparatus to perform playback operation including recording units corresponding to a time interval specified from the outside by comparing said time interval with said time information.

8.   (ORIGINAL) The record and playback apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said management information includes said index information; and

said record and playback apparatus includes a control part which causes said record and playback apparatus to perform playback operation including a recording unit corresponding to a specified index information specified from the outside by comparing said specified index information with said index information.

9.   (ORIGINAL) The record and playback apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said management information includes said backward pointer; and

said record and playback apparatus includes a control part which causes said record and playback apparatus to perform playback operation from a recording unit indicated by a specified backward pointer specified from the outside by comparing said specified backward pointer with said backward pointer.

10.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A record and playback method for coding information and recording said information which is coded in a recording medium in a record and playback apparatus, said record and playback method comprising ~~the step of~~:

recording said information at a variable bit rate; and

performing playback operation according to management information stored in a predetermined management area provided in said recording medium, said management information including time information on a time when said information is recorded, index

3

information which can be assigned to a recording unit, and a backward pointer for connecting recording units in a backward direction.

11.   (ORIGINAL) The record and playback method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said predetermined management area is a FAT area, and said management information is provided in said FAT area.

12.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The record and playback method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said predetermined management area storing said management information is an area provided separately from a FAT area.

13.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The record and playback method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said predetermined management area storing said management information is an area provided separately from a FAT area, and said predetermined management area is provided for each of said time information, said index information and said backward pointer.

14.   (ORIGINAL) The record and playback method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said predetermined management area is a FAT area, and said management information is information which forms a FAT entry tag provided in said FAT area.

15.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The record and playback method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said management information includes said time information, said record and playback method further comprising the step of:
    controlling said record and playback apparatus to perform playback operation from a recording unit corresponding to a time specified from the outside by comparing said time with said time information.

16.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The record and playback method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said management information includes said time information; said record and playback method further comprising the step of:
    controlling said record and playback apparatus to perform to perform playback operation including recording units corresponding to a time interval specified from the outside by comparing said time interval with said time information.

4

17.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The record and playback method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said management information includes said index information, said record and playback method further comprising the step of:

controlling said record and playback apparatus to perform playback operation including a recording unit corresponding to a specified index information specified from the outside by comparing said specified index information with said index information.

18.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The record and playback method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said management information includes said backward pointer, said record and playback method further comprising the step of:

controlling said record and playback apparatus to perform playback operation from a recording unit indicated by a specified backward pointer specified from the outside by comparing said specified backward pointer with said backward pointer.

19.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of recording coded information on a recording medium having a management area, comprising:

recording information on the recording medium at a first time, the information corresponding to a recording unit, and the information being recorded at a variable bit rate;

storing time information of the first time in the management area;

storing index information assigned to a recording unit, in the management area; and

storing a backward pointer connecting a plurality of the recording units, in the management area.

20.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 19, wherein the recording of information, the storing of time information, the storing of index information, and the storing of [[a]]the backward pointer occur in sequence.

5